

FORT WORTH, Tex.
June 2, 1944.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
President of the United States,
Washington, D. C.

Hon. H. L. Ickes,
Secretary of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:
My dear Mr. Secretary:

It seems to me that this deserves to rank as a historic occasion, presenting as it does the unusual spectacle of a State giving something to the Federal Government. Texas is not averse to the fame which it confidently expects to accrue from such an unusual act. The State expects its free gift of approximately 700,000 acres, embracing over 1,000 square miles of its territory, lying in the "Big Bend" of the Rio Grande, an area which has continued to this day in the primitive state of wild beauty in which the eyes of man first viewed it, to redound to the benefit of itself along with that of its sister states and nations. Texas counts the advantage of assurance for all time that the region will be kept unchanged while being made accessible to universal visitation, as well as compensating the cost to itself and its citizens and justifying the cession of sovereignty by the State which is hereby delivered to the President of the United States and the Secretary of the Interior.

As President of the Texas Big Bend National Park Association, which is the organization of Texans who early undertook the job of putting together the vast block of acreage under diverse ownership, I feel that this occasion reflects great credit upon all those public-spirited Texans who cheerfully, and often to their own cost, have participated in the project. The acreage included has been acquired through purchase-- from funds appropriated by the Texas Legislature, from cash contributions of Texas citizens, including funds raised through the newspapers, by small contributions of Texas children-- through conversion from the public

domain of Texas, and through outright gift of land by private owners.

The Texas Big Bend National Park Association conveys its gratitude to every individual who has contributed to making possible this happy occasion. A great many busy persons have given unstintedly of their time, their energy and their money to the job which is now finished. To each and every one of them we extend our personal thanks. Working together in a labor of love, Texans have completed in the name of their State the job of clearing the way so that this great park land area could be conveyed under one deed to the National Park Service, to the end that Big Bend National Park may to the fullest extent serve the benefit and pleasure of the people of every State and nation.

Sincerely yours,

President .